

REMARKS

The claims are claims 1 to 27 and 29 to 31.

Claims 1, 8, 13, 20 and 25 are amended. Claim 28 is canceled. New claims 29 to 31 are added. Claim 1 is amended to correct the error noted by the Examiner and to include the some limitations previously recited in claim 8. Claim 8 is amended to delete the subject matter now recited in claim 1. Claim 13 is amended to correct the error noted by the Examiner and to include some limitations previously recited in claim 20. Claim 20 is amended to delete the limitations not recited in claim 13. Claim 25 is amended to include limitations of canceled claim 28. New claims 29 to 31 recite subject matter disclosed in the original application at page 7, lines 18 to 26.

Claims 1 and 13 have been amended as suggested by the Examiner to remove the duplication noted at paragraph 2 of the OFFICE ACTION.

Claims 1 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as made obvious by the combination of Chang et al U.S. Patent No. 6,631,098 and Buchheim U.S. Patent No. 6,061,306. The Applicant respectfully submits this reasoning is in error.

Amended claims 1, 13 and 25 recite subject matter not made obvious by the combination of Chang et al and Buchheim. Claims 1 and 13 recite "an analog input connection connected to said audio coder-decoder for receiving an analog input." Claim 13 recites "a base unit analog output connection for connection to said analog input connection of said first base connector." Claim 25 recites "a base unit analog output connection connected to said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." The OFFICE ACTION states at page 5, lines 12 to 19:

"As to claims 8-10, CHANG et al shows the base connector further includes an analog input connection connected to audio coder-decoder for receiving an analog input from an external base unit and audio coder-decoder digitizes analog input received via analog input connection and stores digitized analog input in memory (Fig.2, interface port 44 provides analog input and coder-decoder 20 digitizes analog input and stores in internal memory 16 as compressed files)."

The Applicant respectfully submits this fails to make obvious the analog input connection between the portable player and the base unit recited in claims 1, 13 and 25. Figure 2 of Chang et al includes the reference label "USB, Parallel Port, RS-232, SCSI" referenced by reference number 44. These refer to known digital interfaces: USB refers to Universal Serial Port; RS-232 refers to a serial data interface; SCSI refers to Small Computer System Interface. Chang et al states at column 3, lines 3 to 10:

"A computer can program the MP3 player 10 through the USB (EPP, SCSI, IDE, or RS232, etc.) interface of the CD-ROM 40 since the USB (EPP, RS232, SCSI, or IDE, etc.) port 30 of the MP3 player 10 is locked and bypassed to the USB (EPP, SCSI, RS232, or IDE, etc.) port 44 of the CD-ROM 40 when the MP3 player 10 is placed on the CD-ROM 40 for use."

The interface types listed in this portion of Chang et al are also known digital interfaces. Further, Chang et al fails to include any disclosure of any analog signal. Accordingly, Chang et al fails to make obvious the analog connection recited in claims 1, 13 and 25. Thus claims 1, 13 and 25 are allowable over the combination of Chang et al and Buchheim.

Claims 13 and 25 recite subject matter not made obvious by the combination of Chang et al and Buchheim. Claims 13 and 25 recite "a tuner for receiving and demodulating analog audio signals." Claim 13 further recites "said tuner supplying said analog audio signals to said base unit analog output connection" and claim 25 further recites "a base unit analog output connection connected to

said tuner to output demodulated analog audio signals." The OFFICE ACTION further states at page 6, lines 18 to 24:

"As to claims 20 and 28, it would have been obvious to someone within the level of skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use a tuner in the base for receiving, digitizing and storing broadcast signal since BUCHHEIM suggests in figure 1, radio receiver 60 for receiving broadcast signal, digitizing and storing broadcast signal into memory 16 and 40(see column 8, lines 15-21)."

Buchheim states at column 8, lines 15 to 21 (the portion cited by the Examiner):

"According to another preferred embodiment portable audio device 10 of the present invention further includes a radiotransistor 60 for receiving and playing via speaker(s) 20 radio broadcast. The radio broadcast can also be recorded and stored in memories 16 and/or 40 via recording chip 26. In this case additional button or buttons 32 are provided for selecting radio frequency, etc."

This portion of Buchheim clearly discloses "radiotransistor 60" as part of the portable audio device 10. Buchheim fails to disclose the tuner as part of the base unit as recited in claims 13 and 25. Accordingly, claims 13 and 25 are allowable over the combination of Chang et al and Buchheim.

New claims 29 to 31 recite subject matter not made obvious by the combination of Chang et al and Buchheim. Claims 29 and 31 recite the base connector of the player includes "a digital data bus connection for bidirectional data exchange." Claims 29 and 31 further recite the data processor of the player is further connected to the digital data bus connection "for communicating station selection data corresponding to inputs received from said input/output device" via the digital data bus connection to the base unit. Claims 30 and 31 recite a base connector including a "digital data bus connection." Claim 30 recites this digital data


bus connection is "for connection to said first digital data bus connection." Claim 31 recites this digital data bus connection is "for receiving digital data including station selection data." Lastly, claims 30 and 31 recites that the tuner is connected to this digital data bus connection and selects "a station corresponding to said station selection data." These recitations provide the tuner in the base unit with station selection made by the input/output device of the portable unit with station selection data transferred by a newly claimed digital data bus. This subject matter is not made obvious by the combination of Chang et al and Buchheim. Buchheim teaches "radiotransistor 60" as part of the portable audio device 10 and not part of the base unit as required by the recitations of claims 29 to 31. Buchheim also fails to make obvious the transmission of station selection data via a digital data bus. Accordingly, claims 29 to 31 are not made obvious by the combination of Chang et al and Buchheim.

The Applicant respectfully submits that all the present claims are allowable for the reasons set forth above. Therefore early reconsideration and advance to issue are respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed telephone number and address to facilitate prosecution.

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Respectfully submitted,


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